

REMARKS

The Examiner has required restriction between the following inventions as required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

I. Claims 1-18, and 40-48, drawn to a method and device for producing a reducing gas, classified in class 48, subclass 197R.

II. Claims 19-39, and 49-60, drawn to a device for reducing nitrogen oxide (NO.sub.x) content in oxygen-containing emissions of a lean burn engine, classified in class 60, subclass 286.

III. Claims 62-65, drawn to a catalyst composition, classified in class 422, subclass 177.

Applicants hereby elect Group I (claims 1-18 and 40-48), without traverse. Applicants expressly reserve their right under 35 U.S.C. §121 to file a divisional application directed to the nonelected subject matter during the pendency of this application, or an application claiming priority from this application.

Applicants respectfully note that Group II encompasses claims drawn to both a device and a method for reducing NO_x content, rather than only to a device as indicated by the Examiner. Further, claims 62-63 recite a catalyst composition, rather than claims 62-65, and claims 64 and 65, which are dependent on claims 28 and 29, respectively, appear to belong in Group II, rather than Group III.

Applicants hereby request examination of the elected subject matter on the merits.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 220772010800. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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